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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A message-processing agent operable in a Scalable Infrastructure system, the message-processing agent comprising:
 - a receiver designed to receive an object from a ~~space in~~ persistent store called a Space, the Space part of the Scalable Infrastructure system;
 - a default routing identifying a destination for the object; and
 - a routing module designed to route the object to the destination.
2. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 1, the message-processing agent further comprising a user preference setting including a second destination for the object.
3. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 2, wherein the second destination is identical to the destination.
4. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 2, wherein the second destination is different from the destination.
5. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 2, wherein the user preference setting includes a plurality of distinct destinations for the object.
6. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 5, wherein the message-processing agent is designed to route the object sequentially to each distinct destination for the object until the object is received at a first destination.
7. (Currently Amended) A message-processing agent according to claim 6, wherein the message-processing agent is designed to place a second object in the ~~space~~ Space for a sequence agent to sequentially route the object to each distinct destination for the object until the object is received at the first destination.
8. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 5, wherein the message-processing agent is designed to broadcast the object to each distinct destination for the object until the object is received at a first destination.

9. (Currently Amended) A message-processing agent according to claim 8, wherein the message-processing agent is designed to place a second object in the ~~space~~ Space for a broadcast agent to broadcast the object to each distinct destination for the object until the object is received at the first destination.

10. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 2, wherein the second destination includes routing instructions based on the source of the object.

11. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 1, wherein the first destination includes a telephone.

12. (Original) A message-processing agent according to claim 1, the message-processing agent further comprising a registration entry for a user.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for using a message-processing agent to process an object in a ~~space in~~ persistent store called a Space, the Space part of a Scalable Infrastructure system, the method comprising:

~~receiving~~ retrieving an object from the ~~space~~ Space by a Smart Secretary;
accessing a preference setting; and
routing the object by the Smart Secretary according to the preference setting.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein ~~receiving~~ retrieving an object includes receiving notice of the object from the ~~space~~ Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein accessing a preference setting includes selecting a preference setting according to an ultimate recipient of the object.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein selecting a preference setting includes selecting a user preference setting according to the ultimate recipient if the user preference setting exists.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein selecting a user preference setting includes checking to see if the ultimate recipient of the object is registered with the Scalable Infrastructure system.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein selecting a preference setting includes selecting a default routing according to the ultimate recipient if no user preference setting exists.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein routing the object includes sending the object to a destination.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein routing the object includes:

determining at least two destinations for the object; and

placing a sequence object in the ~~space~~ Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system for a sequence agent to sequentially route the object to each destination for the object until the object is received.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein routing the object includes:

determining at least two destinations for the object; and

placing a broadcast object in the ~~space~~ Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system for a broadcast agent to broadcast the object to each destination for the object until the object is received.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program to use a message-processing agent to process an object in a ~~space-in-persistent store~~ called a Space, the Space part of a Scalable Infrastructure system, the program comprising:

~~receiving-retrieval~~ software to ~~receive-retrieve~~ the object from the ~~space~~ Space by a Smart Secretary;

accessing software to access a preference setting; and

routing software to route the object by the Smart Secretary according to the preference setting.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the ~~receiving~~retrieval software includes receiving software to receive notice of the object from the ~~space~~Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system.

24. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the accessing software includes selection software to select a preference setting according to an ultimate recipient of the object.

25. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 24, wherein the selection software includes selection software to select a user preference setting according to the ultimate recipient if the user preference setting exists.

26. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 25, wherein the selection software includes checking software to check if the ultimate recipient of the object is registered with the Scalable Infrastructure system.

27. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 24, wherein the selection software includes selection software to select a default routing according to the ultimate recipient if no user preference setting exists.

28. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the routing software includes sending software to send the object to a first destination.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the routing software includes:

determination software to determine at least two destinations for the object; and
placing software to place a sequence object in the ~~space~~Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system for a sequence agent to sequentially route the object to each destination for the object until the object is received.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 22, wherein the routing software includes:

determination software to determine at least two destinations for the object; and

placing software to place a broadcast object in the ~~space~~Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system for a broadcast agent to broadcast the object to each destination for the object until the object is received.

31. (Currently Amended) A message-processing agent operable in a Scalable Infrastructure system, the message-processing agent comprising:
means for ~~receiving~~retrieving for receive the object from a ~~space~~Space by a Smart Secretary;
means for accessing a preference setting; and
means for routing the object by the Smart Secretary according to the preference setting.

32. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the means for ~~receiving~~retrieving includes means for receiving notice of the object from the ~~space~~Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the means for accessing includes means for selecting a preference setting according to an ultimate recipient of the object.

34. (Original) A method according to claim 33, wherein the means for selecting includes second means for selecting a user preference setting according to the ultimate recipient if the user preference setting exists.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein the second means for selecting includes means for checking to see if the ultimate recipient of the object is registered with the Scalable Infrastructure system.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 33, wherein the means for selecting includes means for selecting a default routing according to the ultimate recipient if no user preference setting exists.

37. (Original) A method according to claim 31, wherein the means for routing includes means for sending the object to a destination.

38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the means for routing includes:

means for determining at least two destinations for the object; and

means for placing a sequence object in the ~~space~~ Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system for a sequence agent to sequentially route the object to each destination for the object until the object is received.

39. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 31, wherein the means for routing includes:

means for determining at least two destinations for the object; and

means for placing a broadcast object in the ~~space~~ Space in the Scalable Infrastructure system for a broadcast agent to broadcast the object to each destination for the object until the object is received.

40. (New) A message-processing agent operable in a Scalable Infrastructure system, the message-processing agent comprising:

a retriever designed to retrieve an object from a persistent store called a Space, the Space part of the Scalable Infrastructure system;

a default routing identifying a destination for the object; and

a routing module designed to route the object to the destination.

41. (New) A message-processing agent according to claim 40, the message-processing agent further comprising a user preference setting including a second destination for the object.

42. (New) A message-processing agent according to claim 41, wherein the user preference setting includes a plurality of distinct destinations for the object.

43. (New) A message-processing agent according to claim 42, wherein the message-processing agent is designed to route the object sequentially to each distinct destination for the object until the object is received at a first destination.

44. (New) A message-processing agent according to claim 42, wherein the message-processing agent is designed to broadcast the object to each distinct destination for the object until the object is received at a first destination.